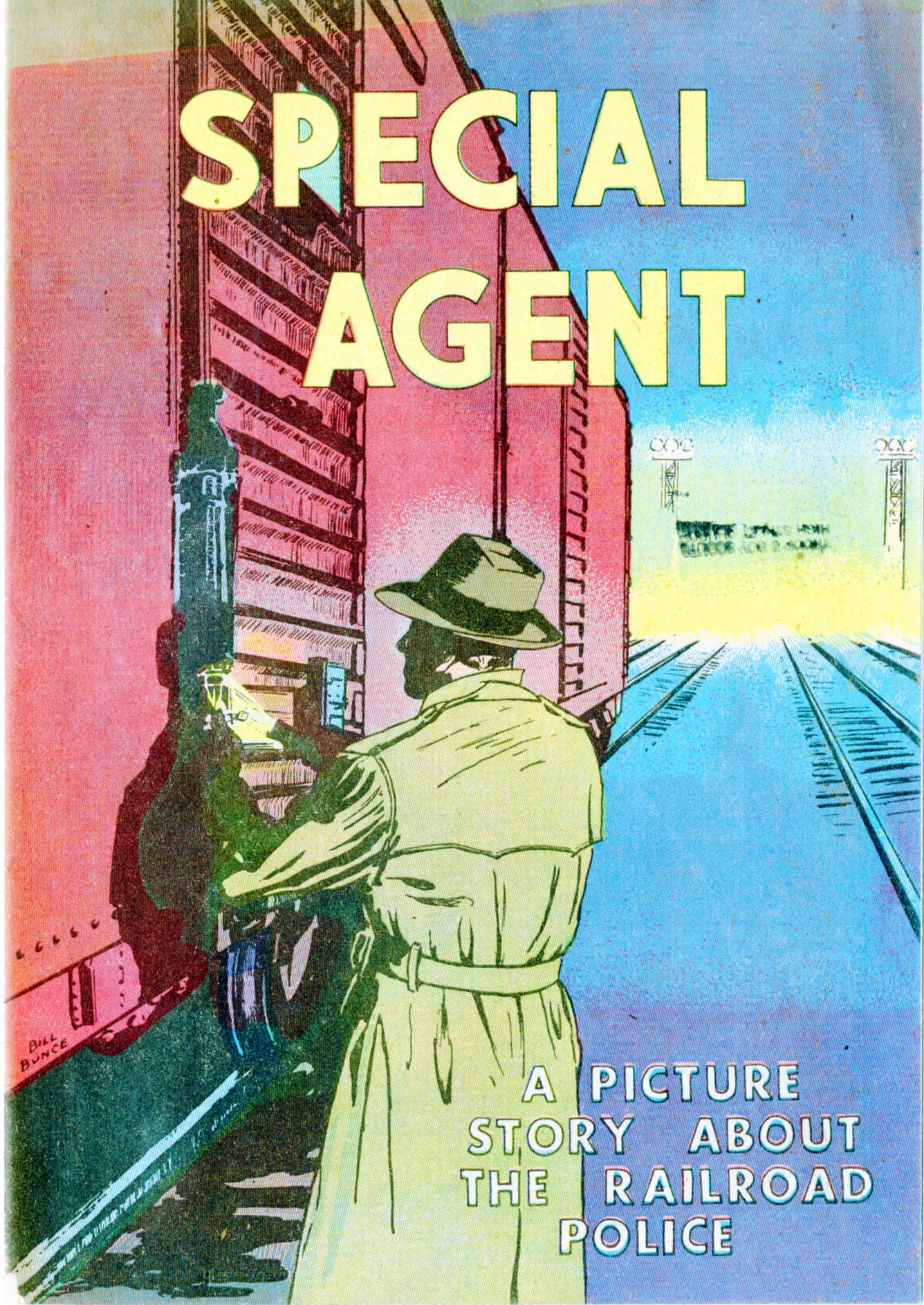
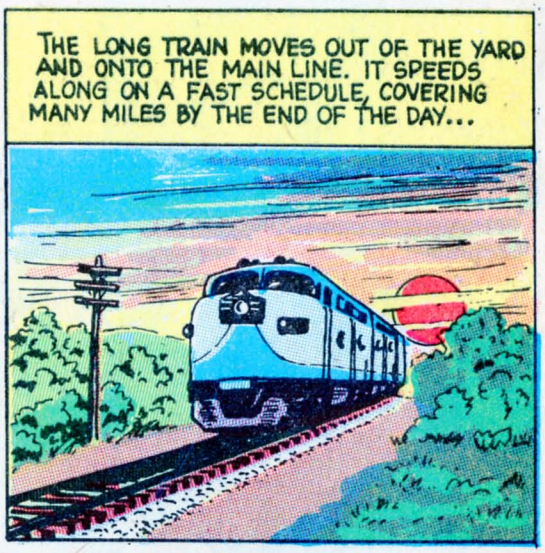
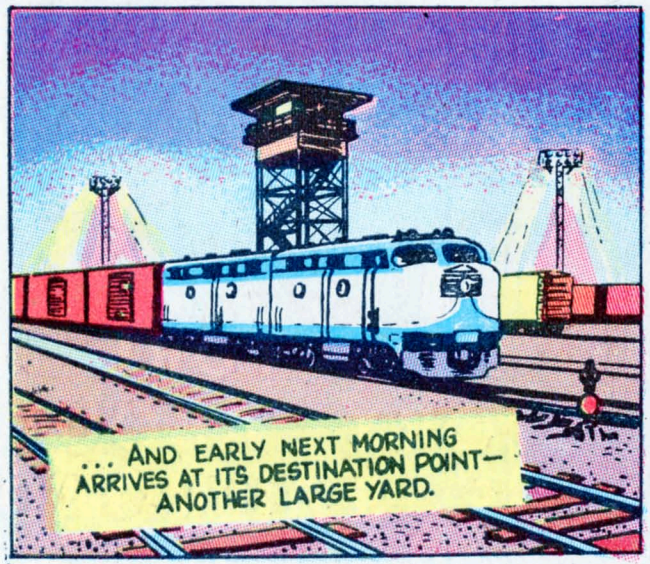

SPECIAL AGENT
A PICTURE STORY ABOUT THE RAILROAD POLICE
BILL BUNCE

IN A LARGE CLASSIFICATION YARD, A FREIGHT TRAIN CARRYING VALUABLE MERCHANDISE STANDS ON A DEPARTURE TRACK, READY TO ROLL. WHEELS AND JOURNAL BEARINGS HAVE BEEN CHECKED, AIR BRAKE INSPECTORS HAVE GIVEN THE TRAIN A CLEARANCE...

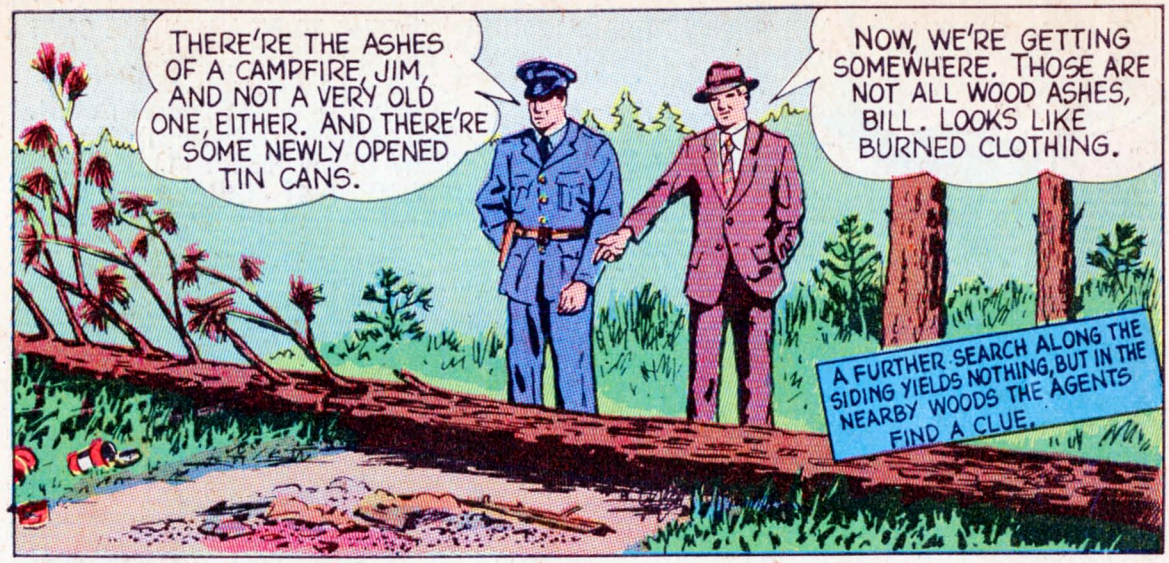
...AND RAILROAD POLICEMEN OR SPECIAL AGENTS HAVE EXAMINED THE CARS TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE PROPERLY SEALED. (SEALS ARE SMALL METAL STRIPS APPLIED TO THE DOOR OF A CAR WHEN IT HAS BEEN LOADED.)

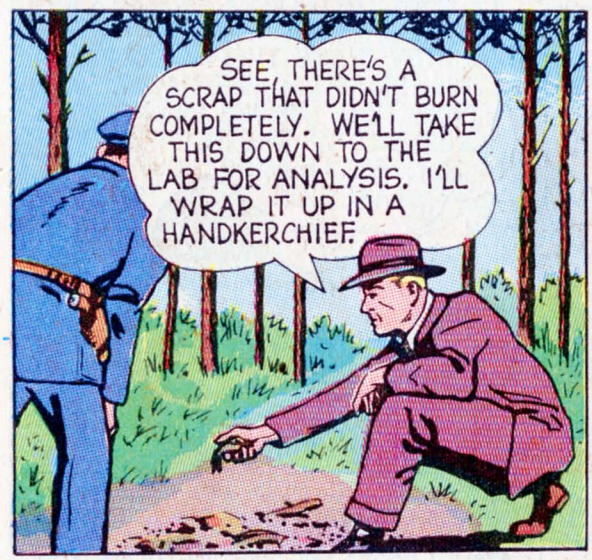

THE LONG TRAIN MOVES OUT OF THE YARD AND ONTO THE MAIN LINE. IT SPEEDS ALONG ON A FAST SCHEDULE, COVERING MANY MILES BY THE END OF THE DAY...


... AND EARLY NEXT MORNING ARRIVES AT ITS DESTINATION POINT— ANOTHER LARGE YARD.

THIS CAR'S BEEN TAMPERED WITH. I'LL TAKE A LOOK INSIDE.
THERE THE CARS ARE AGAIN EXAMINED BY A RAILROAD POLICEMAN. HIS EXPERIENCED EYE NOTICES A BROKEN SEAL...

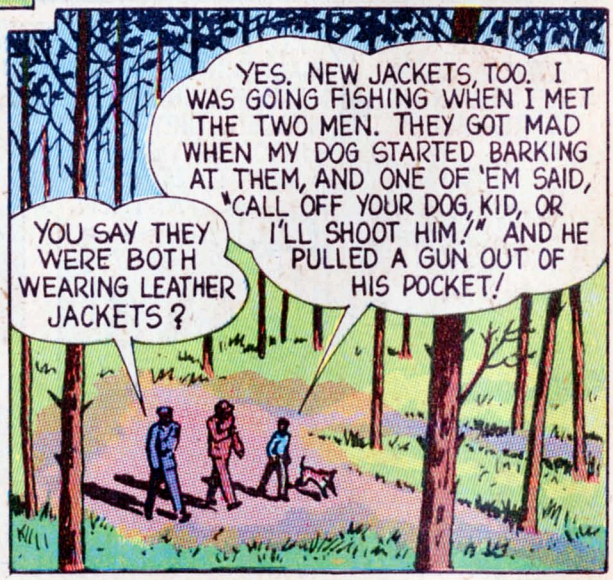
SEVERAL CARTONS HAVE BEEN OPENED. ARE ANY MISSING?
YES, TWO CARTONS OF LEATHER JACKETS. THE WAYBILL SHOWS 25 CARTONS. NOW THERE ARE ONLY 23.
...AND HE CHECKS AT ONCE WITH THE FREIGHT CONDUCTOR TO DETERMINE IF A THEFT HAS TAKEN PLACE. THE CAR CONTAINS CARTONS OF CLOTHING, SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN OPENED.
SEEMS TO BE A ROUTINE CASE OF THEFT. WE'LL HAVE TO CHECK THOSE OPENED BOXES - SEE IF ANYTHING HAS BEEN TAKEN. YOU CAN GET THE REST OF THE CREW DOWN HERE. I'LL CALL LIEUTENANT JOHNSON. HE'LL TAKE OVER THE INVESTIGATION.
THAT WAS LONG ENOUGH TO OPEN THE CAR. BIG ROCK'S THE ONLY PLACE BETWEEN HERE AND THE JUNCTION WHERE HOBOES CAN BOARD A FAST FREIGHT. IT LOOKS LIKE HOBOES' WORK, BUT YOU DIDN'T SEE ANY HOBOES.
THE SEALS WERE ALL O.K. AT THE DIVISION POINT, BUT WE WENT IN THE HOLE AT BIG ROCK SIDING FOR TWENTY MINUTES.
NO OTHER MERCHANDISE IS MISSING - JUST THE JACKETS.
I'LL WIRE LAKESIDE JUNCTION TO MAKE A SEARCH OF THE AREA, AND CHECK WITH THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE ON THAT COUNTRY STORE THEFT A COUPLE OF NIGHTS AGO. THERE MAY BE SOME CONNECTION. THIS WAS AN INTERSTATE SHIPMENT SO THE F.B.I. WILL BE NOTIFIED. I'M GOING OUT TO LAKESIDE ON 17.
THE THEFT HAVING BEEN REPORTED, THE OFFICER APPLIES A NEW SEAL TO THE CAR AND MOVES AT ONCE TO LOCATE AND RECOVER THE STOLEN GOODS, AND IDENTIFY, LOCATE, AND APPREHEND THE PARTY OR PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE THEFT. THE INFORMATION GOES OUT ON TELETYPE TO ALL RAILROAD SPECIAL AGENTS...
DID THE SECTION CREW HAVE ANYTHING TO REPORT?
NO, BUT THE SIGNAL MAINTAINER SAW TWO MEN HE THINKS WERE HOBOES. THEY TOOK OFF INTO THE WOODS AND HE DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT THEM.
...AND TWO OFFICERS, DISPATCHED FROM LAKESIDE JUNCTION BY AUTO, ARE SOON AT THE SCENE OF THE THEFT.
THERE ARE THE STOLEN CARTONS, BILL. THEY'VE BEEN OPENED.
SEARCHING THE AREA ALONG THE TRACK, THEY FIND THE TWO MISSING CARTONS.


THERE'RE THE ASHES OF A CAMPFIRE, JIM, AND NOT A VERY OLD ONE, EITHER. AND THERE'RE SOME NEWLY OPENED TIN CANS.
NOW, WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE. THOSE ARE NOT ALL WOOD ASHES, BILL. LOOKS LIKE BURNED CLOTHING.
A FURTHER SEARCH ALONG THE SIDING YIELDS NOTHING, BUT IN THE NEARBY WOODS THE AGENTS FIND A CLUE.

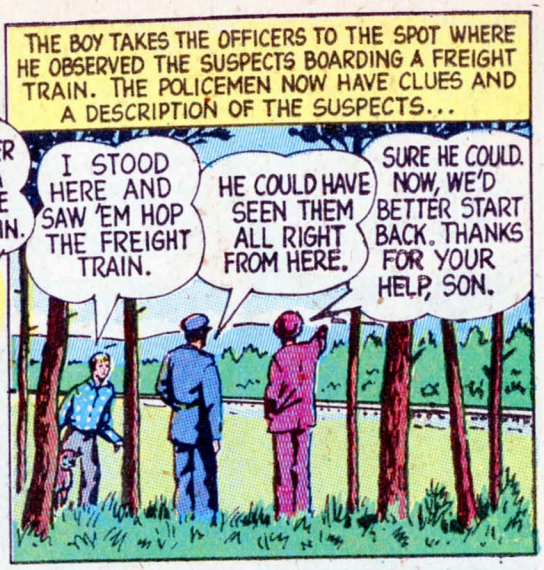

SEE, THERE'S A SCRAP THAT DIDN'T BURN COMPLETELY. WE'LL TAKE THIS DOWN TO THE LAB FOR ANALYSIS. I'LL WRAP IT UP IN A HANDKERCHIEF.

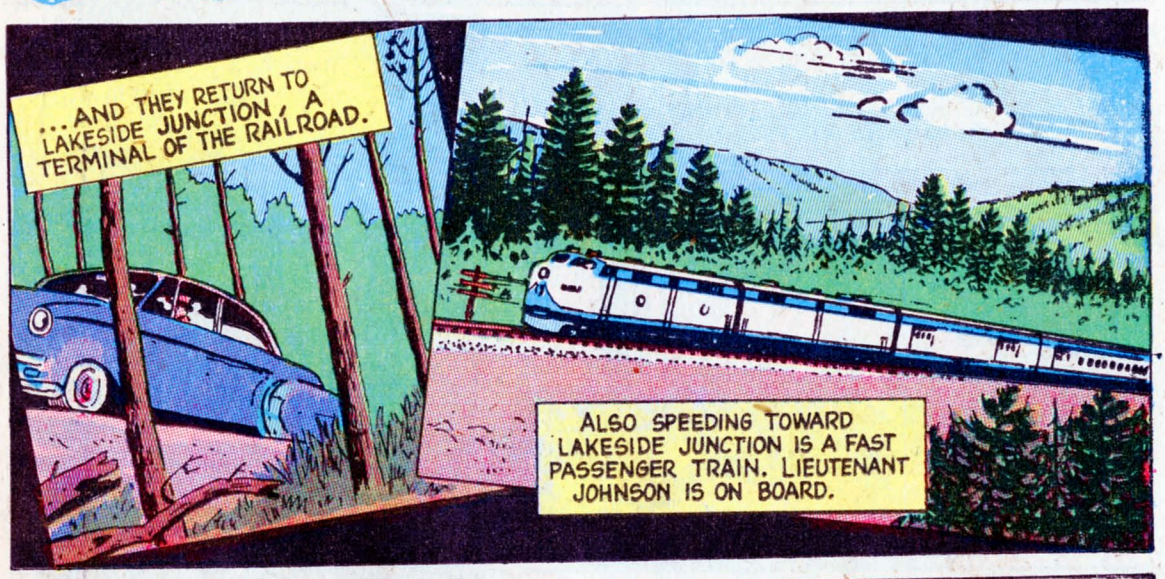
WE'D BETTER GET BACK TO HEAD-QUARTERS WITH THE EVIDENCE, BILL, AND MAKE OUR REPORT.
THERE'S A BOY HEADING THIS WAY, JIM. MAYBE HE CAN TELL US SOMETHING.
AS THEY ARE RETURNING TO THE RAILROAD SIDING...

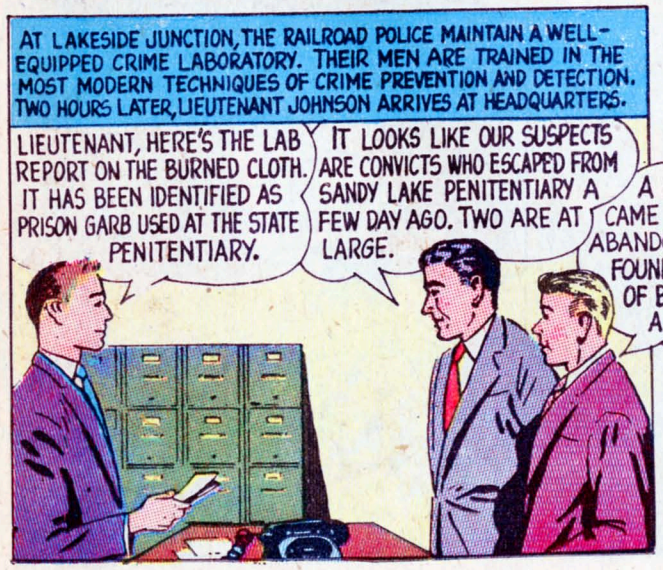
YOU'RE RAILROAD POLICE, AREN'T YOU? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR TWO MEN? THEY HOPPED A FREIGHT TRAIN THIS MORNING. ONE OF THEM HAD A GUN, TOO!
YES, TELL US ABOUT IT, LAD.
...THEY LEARN SOMETHING MORE. THE OFFICERS LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE BOY'S STORY AND TAKE NOTES. IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT THEY ARE DEALING WITH A MORE DANGEROUS TYPE OF CRIMINAL THAN AN ORDINARY HOBO.

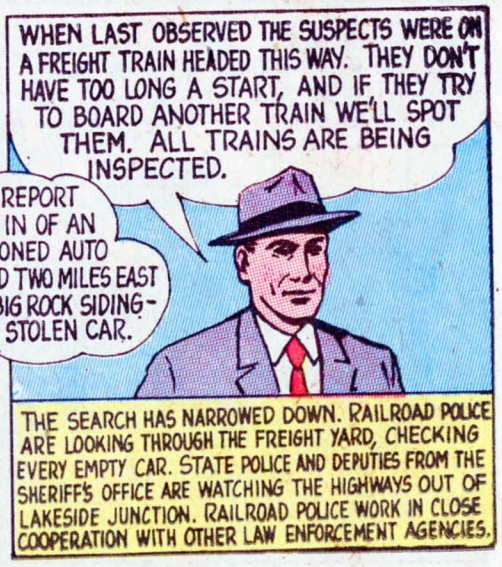

YES. NEW JACKETS, TOO. I WAS GOING FISHING WHEN I MET THE TWO MEN. THEY GOT MAD WHEN MY DOG STARTED BARKING AT THEM, AND ONE OF 'EM SAID, "CALL OFF YOUR DOG, KID, OR I'LL SHOOT HIM!" AND HE PULLED A GUN OUT OF HIS POCKET!
YOU SAY THEY WERE BOTH WEARING LEATHER JACKETS?

THEY WENT DOWN TO THE TRACKS AND I WATCHED THEM FROM THE HILL. IT WAS ABOUT 8 O'CLOCK WHEN THE TRAIN STOPPED.
THAT WAS THE LONG DRAG WE SAW WHEN WE WERE DRIVING OUT HERE, BILL.
RIGHT. NUMBER 169. IT HAD A MEET WITH THE PASSENGER TRAIN.


THE BOY TAKES THE OFFICERS TO THE SPOT WHERE HE OBSERVED THE SUSPECTS BOARDING A FREIGHT TRAIN. THE POLICEMEN NOW HAVE CLUES AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE SUSPECTS...
I STOOD HERE AND SAW 'EM HOP THE FREIGHT TRAIN.
HE COULD HAVE SEEN THEM ALL RIGHT FROM HERE.
SURE HE COULD. NOW, WE'D BETTER START BACK. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, SON.


...AND THEY RETURN TO LAKESIDE JUNCTION, A TERMINAL OF THE RAILROAD.
ALSO SPEEDING TOWARD LAKESIDE JUNCTION IS A FAST PASSENGER TRAIN. LIEUTENANT JOHNSON IS ON BOARD.


AT LAKESIDE JUNCTION, THE RAILROAD POLICE MAINTAIN A WELL-EQUIPPED CRIME LABORATORY. THEIR MEN ARE TRAINED IN THE MOST MODERN TECHNIQUES OF CRIME PREVENTION AND DETECTION. TWO HOURS LATER, LIEUTENANT JOHNSON ARRIVES AT HEADQUARTERS.
LIEUTENANT, HERE'S THE LAB REPORT ON THE BURNED CLOTH. IT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS PRISON GARB USED AT THE STATE PENITENTIARY.
IT LOOKS LIKE OUR SUSPECTS ARE CONVICTS WHO ESCAPED FROM SANDY LAKE PENITENTIARY A FEW DAY AGO. TWO ARE AT LARGE.
A REPORT CAME IN OF AN ABANDONED AUTO FOUND TWO MILES EAST OF BIG ROCK SIDING - A STOLEN CAR.


WHEN LAST OBSERVED THE SUSPECTS WERE ON A FREIGHT TRAIN HEADED THIS WAY. THEY DON'T HAVE TOO LONG A START, AND IF THEY TRY TO BOARD ANOTHER TRAIN WE'LL SPOT THEM. ALL TRAINS ARE BEING INSPECTED.
THE SEARCH HAS NARROWED DOWN. RAILROAD POLICE ARE LOOKING THROUGH THE FREIGHT YARD, CHECKING EVERY EMPTY CAR. STATE POLICE AND DEPUTIES FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE ARE WATCHING THE HIGHWAYS OUT OF LAKESIDE JUNCTION. RAILROAD POLICE WORK IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

A POLICEMAN LEARNS THAT TWO MEN ANSWERING THE DESCRIPTION OF THE SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN SEEN IN A DINER NEAR THE RAILROAD YARD.

TWO MEN IN LEATHER JACKETS, EH, JOE? HOW LONG AGO WERE THEY HERE?

'BOUT AN HOUR AGO, SERGEANT. THEY WENT OVER TOWARD THE OUTBOUND YARD.

LUNCH

THROUGHOUT THE BIG YARD WITH ITS NETWORK OF TRACKS, BUSY SWITCH ENGINES, AND THOUSANDS OF CARS, THE SEARCH CONTINUES...

YOU MEN TAKE THIS SIDE AND CHECK EVERY EMPTY.

OKAY.

... AND IT IS NOT LONG UNTIL A MAN IS FOUND HIDING BETWEEN TWO BOXCARS. HE ATTEMPTS TO RUN, BUT IS SOON CAPTURED. MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE YARD, SEVERAL SHOTS ARE FIRED AT OFFICERS...

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JS
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CLIMB OUT OF THERE WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

IMMEDIATE CONTACT IS MADE WITH HEADQUARTERS BY RADIOTELEPHONE IN THE POLICE CAR.

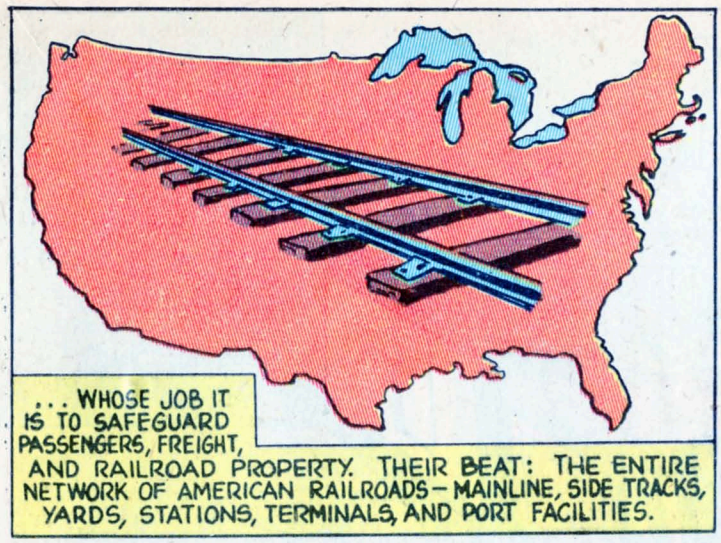
YES, SIR, WE'VE GOT BOTH OF THEM. I'LL TURN THEM OVER TO THE LOCAL POLICE AND REPORT BACK TO HEADQUARTERS.

...BEFORE THE SECOND SUSPECT IS FOUND IN AN EMPTY GONDOLA CAR AND APPREHENDED. ALTHOUGH A RAILROAD POLICEMAN MUST BE READY AND ABLE TO USE FIREARMS EXPERTLY, THEY ARE ONLY USED AS A LAST RESORT TO PROTECT HIS LIFE OR THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

THE REPORT IS O.K. YOU CAN FILE EVERYTHING NOW.

RIGHT, LIEUTENANT.

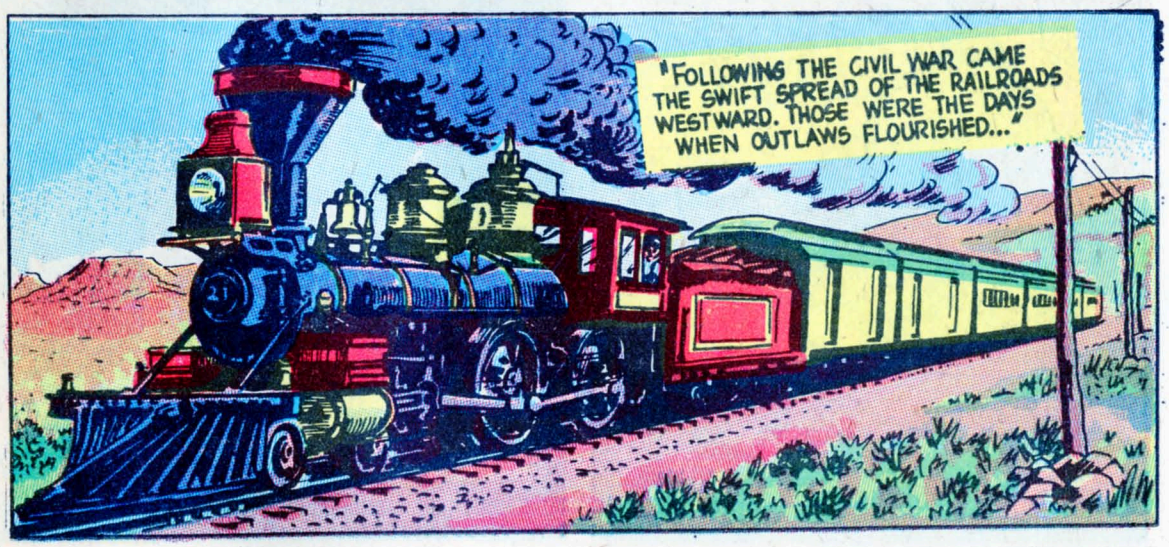
AND SO ENDS ANOTHER CASE, SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED, AND FILED AWAY... ONLY ONE OF MANY ACTIVITIES DAILY CONFRONTING THE RAILROAD POLICE...


. . . WHOSE JOB IT IS TO SAFEGUARD PASSENGERS, FREIGHT, AND RAILROAD PROPERTY. THEIR BEAT: THE ENTIRE NETWORK OF AMERICAN RAILROADS – MAINLINE, SIDE TRACKS, YARDS, STATIONS, TERMINALS, AND PORT FACILITIES.

THE RAILROAD POLICE HAD THEIR BEGINNING A HUNDRED YEARS AGO WHEN A NUMBER OF RAILROADS HIRED THE SERVICES OF THE FAMOUS PINKERTON AGENCY.

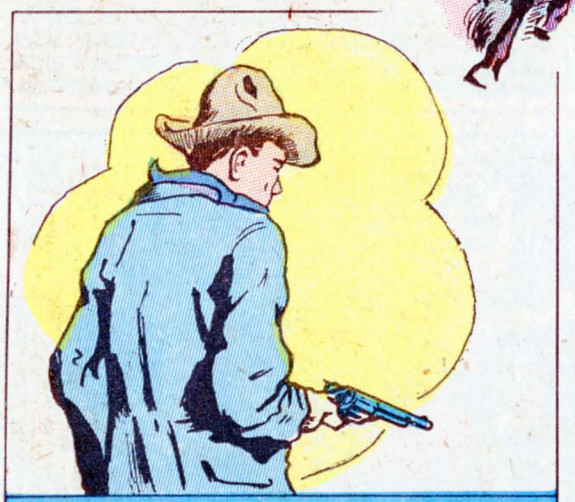
"AN OUTSTANDING FEAT OF THIS AGENCY OCCURRED IN 1861 WHEN PINKERTON FOILED A PLOT AGAINST THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT LINCOLN. THE INVESTIGATION DEVELOPED THAT THE PLOT INCLUDED DESTRUCTION OF TRACK ON THE RAILROAD OVER WHICH LINCOLN WAS TRAVELING TO BALTIMORE ON HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON."
IT'LL BE DARK BEFORE WE REACH BALTIMORE.
YES, BUT PINKERTON'S TAKING NO CHANCES. HIS MEN ARE PATROLLING THE TRACK.

THERE'S THE DOWN-BRAKE WHISTLE! WE'RE MAKING AN UNSCHEDULED STOP.
THAT'S RIGHT. OUR AGENTS ARE WAITING TO ESCORT MR. LINCOLN ACROSS BALTIMORE TO THE OTHER TRAIN.
"GUARDED BY PINKERTON AGENTS, LINCOLN CAME INTO BALTIMORE ON AN UNSCHEDULED TRAIN, WAS TRANSFERRED SECRETLY TO THE WASHINGTON TRAIN AND ARRIVED SAFELY AT THE CAPITAL FOR HIS INAUGURATION."

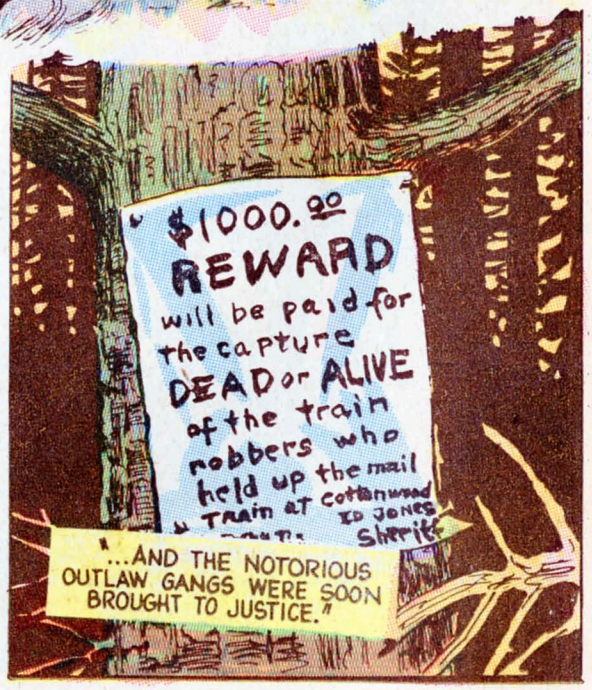

"FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR CAME THE SWIFT SPREAD OF THE RAILROADS WESTWARD. THOSE WERE THE DAYS WHEN OUTLAWS FLOURISHED..."

"... AND WELL-ORGANIZED GANGS OF TRAIN ROBBERS HELD UP TRAINS, TOOK THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FROM MAIL AND EXPRESS CARS, DYNAMITED BRIDGES AND TRESTLES, KILLED PASSENGERS AND RAILROAD EMPLOYEES.

"THESE DEPREDATIONS CALLED FOR PROMPT AND VIGOROUS ACTION. THE RAILROAD COMPANIES HIRED SPECIAL AGENTS TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY..."

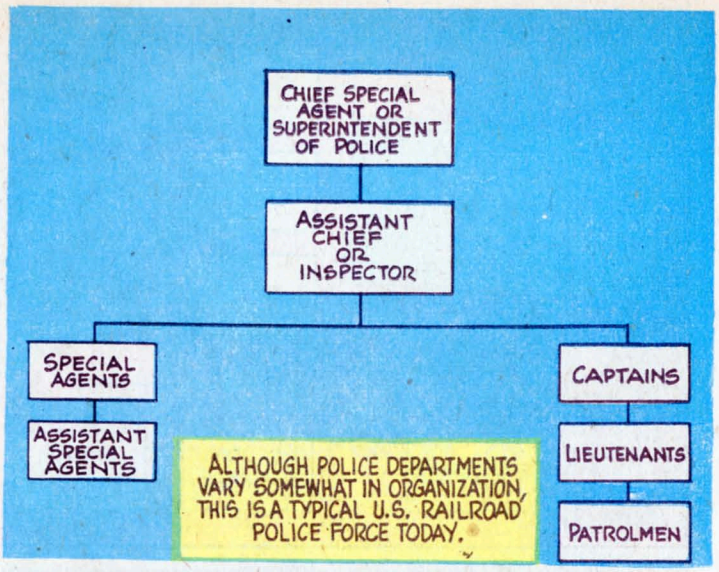


"... MEN WHO COULD HOLD THEIR OWN IN THE ACCURACY AND QUICKNESS WITH WHICH THEY COULD HANDLE THEIR SIX-GUNS IN BATTLE WITH TRAIN ROBBERS. SPECIAL AGENTS WORKED WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS..."



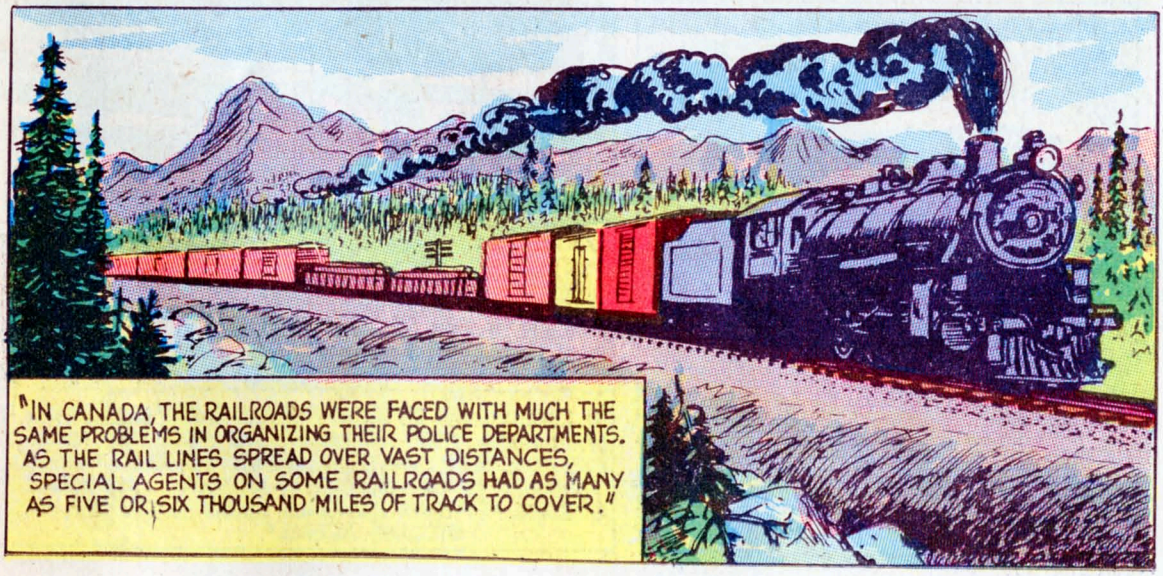

"...AND THE NOTORIOUS OUTLAW GANGS WERE SOON BROUGHT TO JUSTICE."

"DURING THE ERA OF THE SIX-SHOOTER, THE MANNER IN WHICH A SPECIAL AGENT WENT ABOUT HIS JOB WAS LARGELY UP TO HIM, BUT, WITH THE GROWTH OF THE RAILROAD INDUSTRY, THE NEED FOR WELL-TRAINED AND DISCIPLINED POLICE WAS RECOGNIZED. SEPARATE AND ORGANIZED RAILROAD POLICE DEPARTMENTS WERE SET UP."



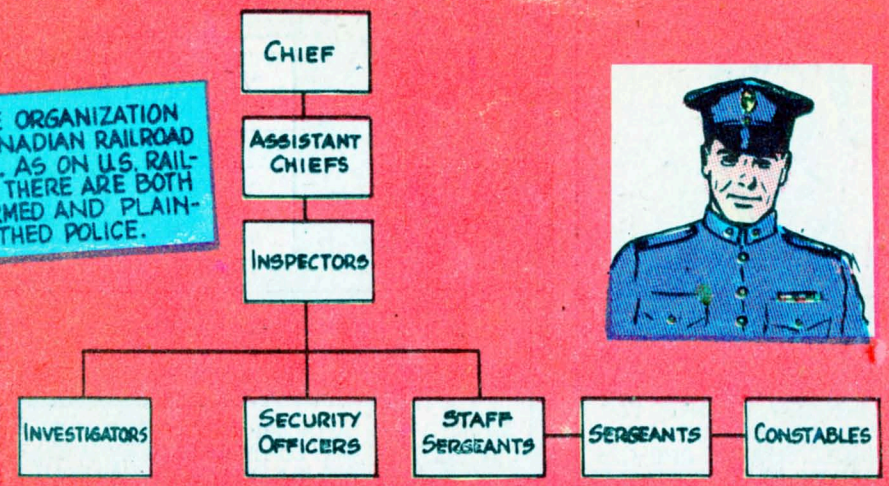
"IN THE EARLY DAYS, RAILROAD DETECTIVES AND SPECIAL AGENTS HAD NO AUTHORITY OFF THEIR OWN PROPERTY UNLESS THEY WERE DEPUTY SHERIFFS."

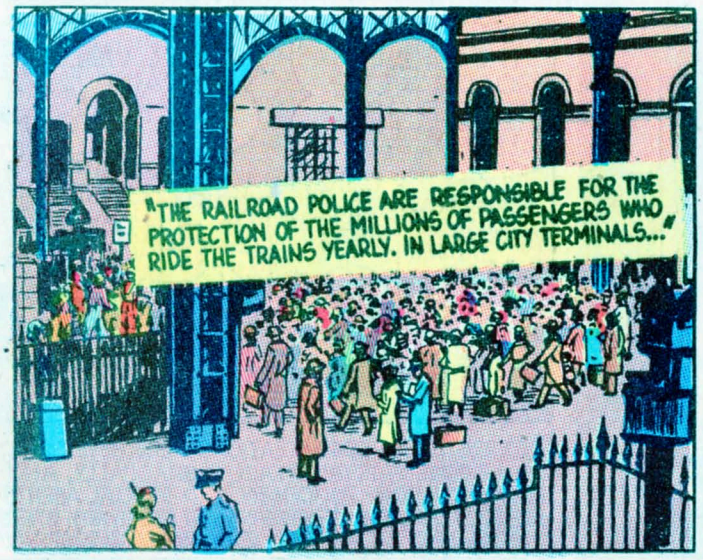
"AS PROTECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS WERE DEVELOPED, POLICE POWERS WERE ATTAINED GRADUALLY, AND TODAY RAILROAD POLICEMEN AND SPECIAL AGENTS ARE FULLY QUALIFIED OFFICERS IN MANY STATES WITH POWERS OF ARREST OFF AS WELL AS ON RAILROAD PROPERTY."



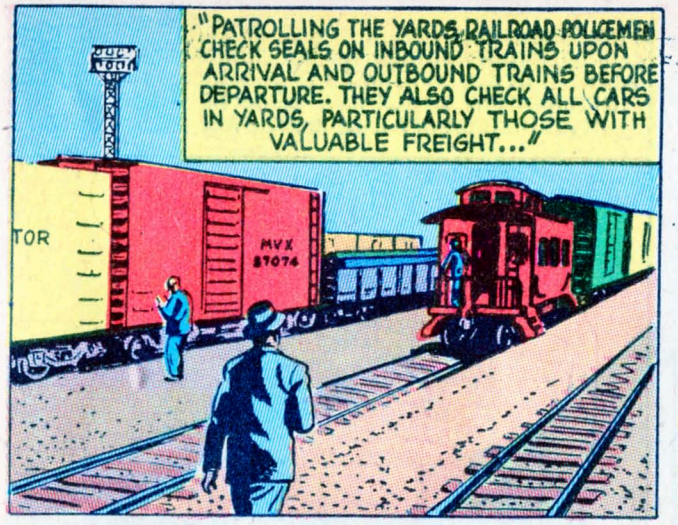
"IN CANADA, THE RAILROADS WERE FACED WITH MUCH THE SAME PROBLEMS IN ORGANIZING THEIR POLICE DEPARTMENTS. AS THE RAIL LINES SPREAD OVER VAST DISTANCES, SPECIAL AGENTS ON SOME RAILROADS HAD AS MANY AS FIVE OR SIX THOUSAND MILES OF TRACK TO COVER."

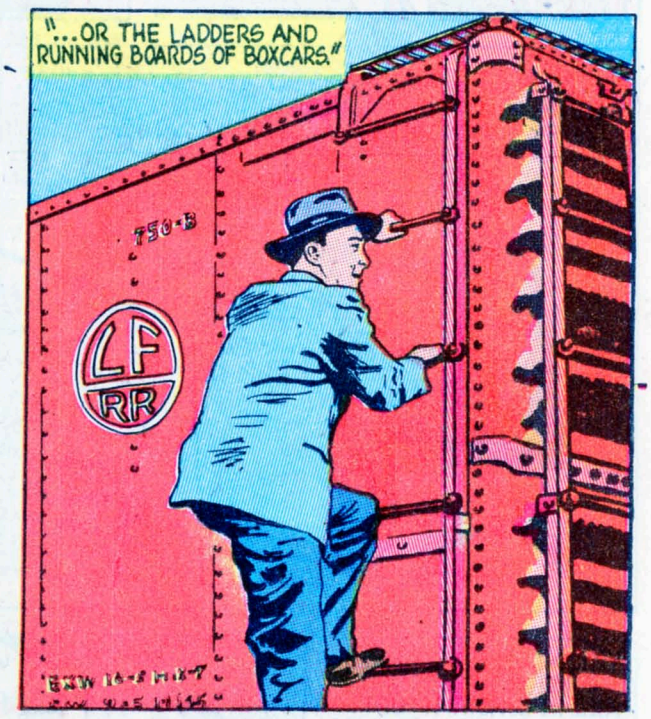
POLICE ORGANIZATION OF A CANADIAN RAILROAD SYSTEM. AS ON U.S. RAILROADS, THERE ARE BOTH UNIFORMED AND PLAIN-CLOTHED POLICE.

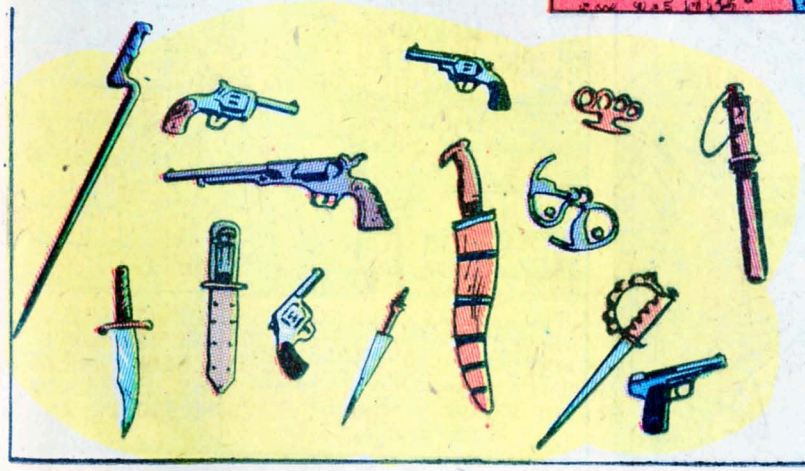


"... CHECKING AND REPORTING FIRE AND SAFETY HAZARDS, KEEPING WATCH AGAINST THEFT AND DAMAGE, AND UNDER THEIR WATCHFUL EYES MOVE THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF FREIGHT TRANSPORTED ANNUALLY BY THE RAILROADS OF AMERICA... SAFEGUARDED EN ROUTE, AT FREIGHT TERMINALS, RECEIVING STATIONS, AND STORAGE AREAS."

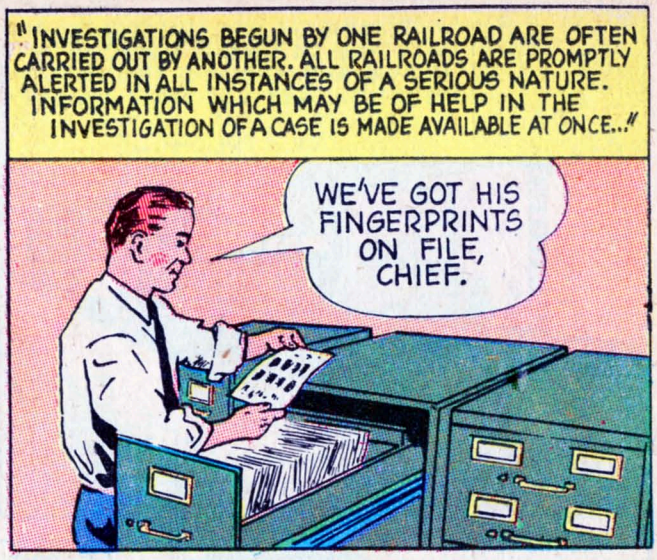


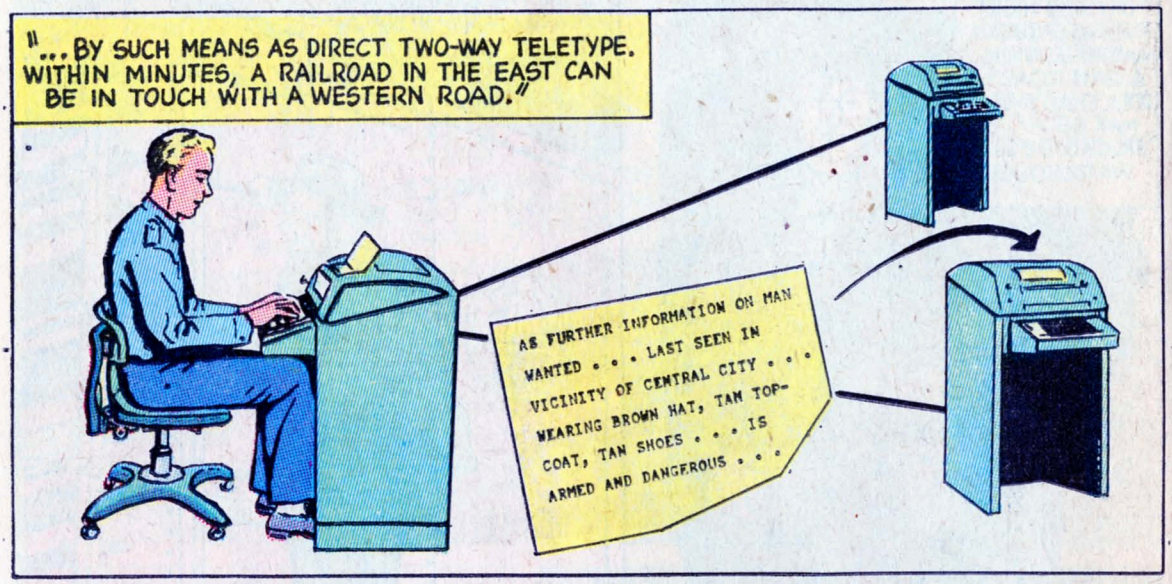


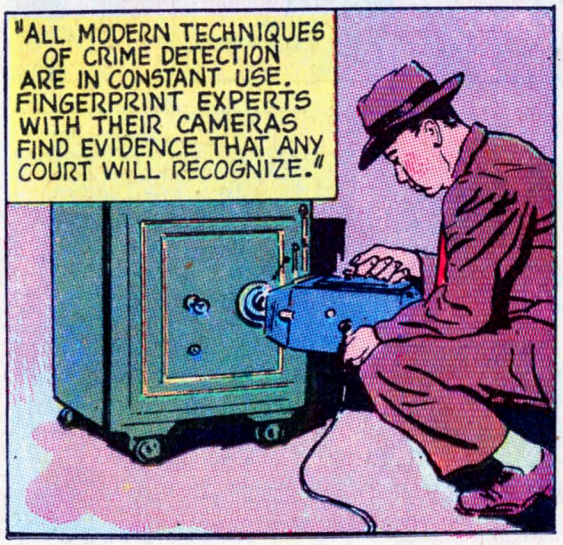



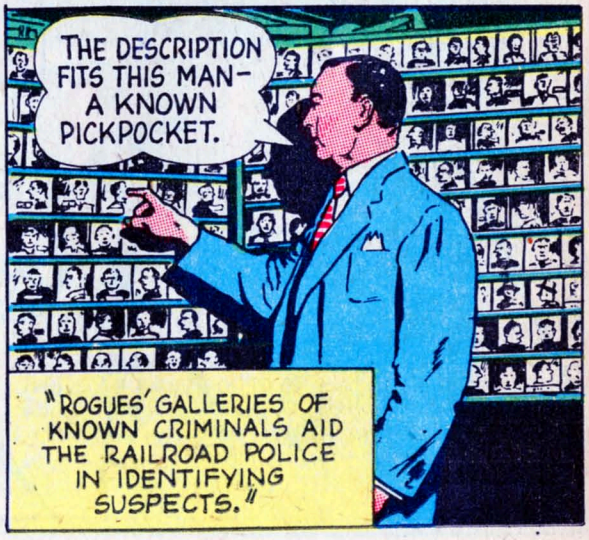
"THESE ARE SOME OF THE ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM TRESPASSERS ON RAILROAD PROPERTY. MANY OF THE TRESPASSERS APPREHENDED BY THE RAILROAD POLICE ARE DANGEROUS CRIMINALS WITH LONG RECORDS."

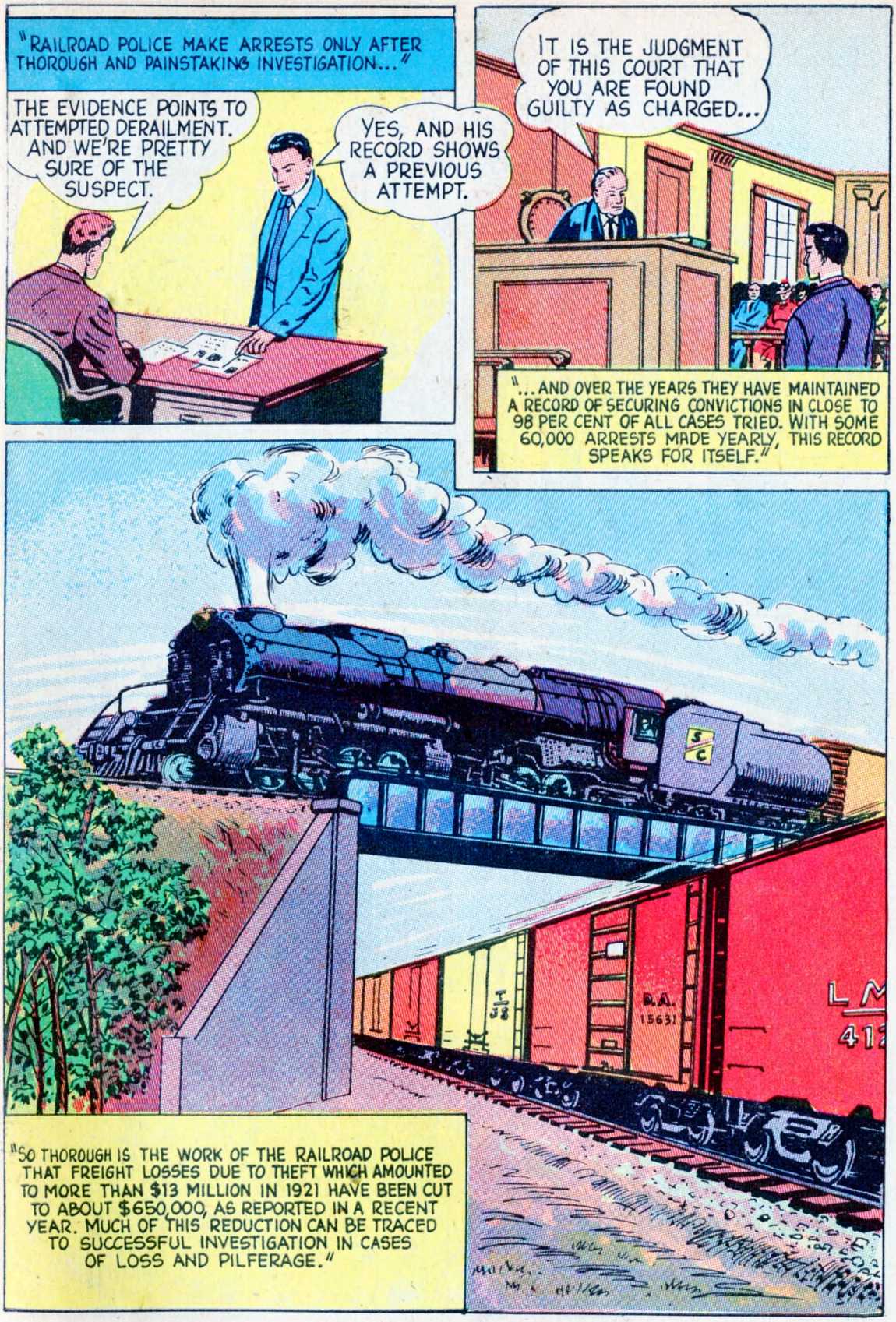
WORKING TOGETHER, THE VARIOUS RAILROAD POLICE DEPARTMENTS FORM A CLOSELY KNIT, COORDINATED ORGANIZATION.

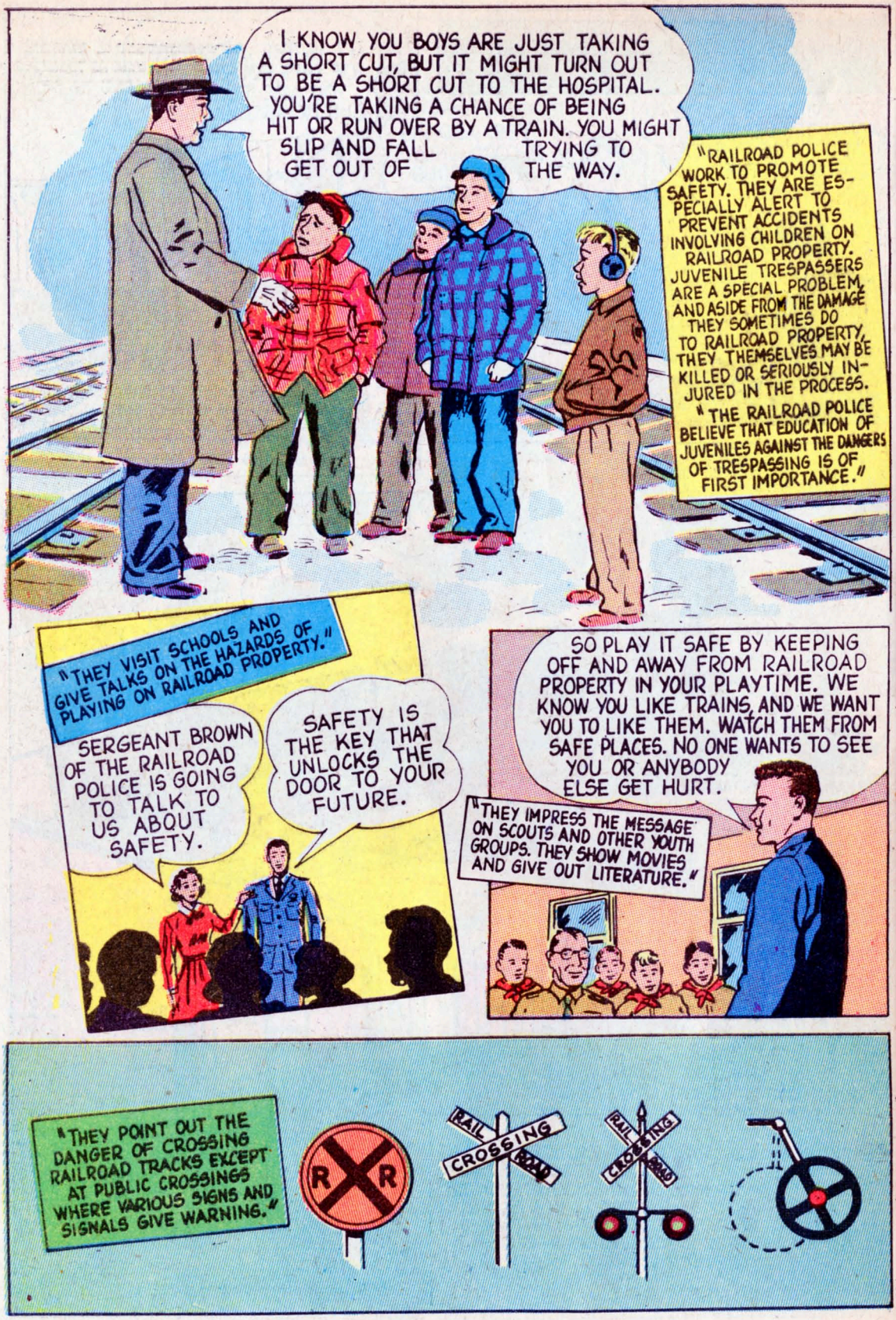

"INVESTIGATIONS BEGUN BY ONE RAILROAD ARE OFTEN CARRIED OUT BY ANOTHER. ALL RAILROADS ARE PROMPTLY ALERTED IN ALL INSTANCES OF A SERIOUS NATURE. INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE OF HELP IN THE INVESTIGATION OF A CASE IS MADE AVAILABLE AT ONCE..."
WE'VE GOT HIS FINGERPRINTS ON FILE, CHIEF.


"...BY SUCH MEANS AS DIRECT TWO-WAY TELETYPE. WITHIN MINUTES, A RAILROAD IN THE EAST CAN BE IN TOUCH WITH A WESTERN ROAD."
AS FURTHER INFORMATION ON MAN WANTED . . . LAST SEEN IN VICINITY OF CENTRAL CITY . . . WEARING BROWN HAT, TAN TOP-COAT, TAN SHOES . . . IS ARMED AND DANGEROUS . . .


"ALL MODERN TECHNIQUES OF CRIME DETECTION ARE IN CONSTANT USE. FINGERPRINT EXPERTS WITH THEIR CAMERAS FIND EVIDENCE THAT ANY COURT WILL RECOGNIZE."


THE DESCRIPTION FITS THIS MAN— A KNOWN PICKPOCKET.
"ROGUES' GALLERIES OF KNOWN CRIMINALS AID THE RAILROAD POLICE IN IDENTIFYING SUSPECTS."


"RAILROAD POLICE MAKE ARRESTS ONLY AFTER THOROUGH AND PAINSTAKING INVESTIGATION..."
THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO ATTEMPTED DERAILMENT. AND WE'RE PRETTY SURE OF THE SUSPECT.
YES, AND HIS RECORD SHOWS A PREVIOUS ATTEMPT.
IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THIS COURT THAT YOU ARE FOUND GUILTY AS CHARGED...
"...AND OVER THE YEARS THEY HAVE MAINTAINED A RECORD OF SECURING CONVICTIONS IN CLOSE TO 98 PER CENT OF ALL CASES TRIED. WITH SOME 60,000 ARRESTS MADE YEARLY, THIS RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF."
"SO THOROUGH IS THE WORK OF THE RAILROAD POLICE THAT FREIGHT LOSSES DUE TO THEFT WHICH AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN $13 MILLION IN 1921 HAVE BEEN CUT TO ABOUT $650,000, AS REPORTED IN A RECENT YEAR. MUCH OF THIS REDUCTION CAN BE TRACED TO SUCCESSFUL INVESTIGATION IN CASES OF LOSS AND PILFERAGE."


I KNOW YOU BOYS ARE JUST TAKING A SHORT CUT, BUT IT MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE A SHORT CUT TO THE HOSPITAL. YOU'RE TAKING A CHANCE OF BEING HIT OR RUN OVER BY A TRAIN. YOU MIGHT SLIP AND FALL TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE WAY.
"RAILROAD POLICE WORK TO PROMOTE SAFETY. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY ALERT TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CHILDREN ON RAILROAD PROPERTY. JUVENILE TRESPASSERS ARE A SPECIAL PROBLEM, AND ASIDE FROM THE DAMAGE THEY SOMETIMES DO TO RAILROAD PROPERTY, THEY THEMSELVES MAY BE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED IN THE PROCESS.
"THE RAILROAD POLICE BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION OF JUVENILES AGAINST THE DANGERS OF TRESPASSING IS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE."
"THEY VISIT SCHOOLS AND GIVE TALKS ON THE HAZARDS OF PLAYING ON RAILROAD PROPERTY."
SERGEANT BROWN OF THE RAILROAD POLICE IS GOING TO TALK TO US ABOUT SAFETY.
SAFETY IS THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS THE DOOR TO YOUR FUTURE.
SO PLAY IT SAFE BY KEEPING OFF AND AWAY FROM RAILROAD PROPERTY IN YOUR PLAYTIME. WE KNOW YOU LIKE TRAINS, AND WE WANT YOU TO LIKE THEM. WATCH THEM FROM SAFE PLACES. NO ONE WANTS TO SEE YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE GET HURT.
"THEY IMPRESS THE MESSAGE ON SCOUTS AND OTHER YOUTH GROUPS. THEY SHOW MOVIES AND GIVE OUT LITERATURE."
"THEY POINT OUT THE DANGER OF CROSSING RAILROAD TRACKS EXCEPT AT PUBLIC CROSSINGS WHERE VARIOUS SIGNS AND SIGNALS GIVE WARNING."
R X R
RAIL CROSSING ROAD
RAIL CROSSING ROAD

"WHEREVER BAGGAGE, MAIL, AND EXPRESS ARE IN STORAGE, IN THE PROCESS OF BEING HANDLED AT STATIONS OR TRANSFER POINTS, AND IN TRANSIT, THEY BEAR AND RECEIVE THE WATCHFULNESS OF THE RAILROAD POLICE. MANY ATTEMPTS AT THEFT ARE HALTED BY THIS VIGILANCE."

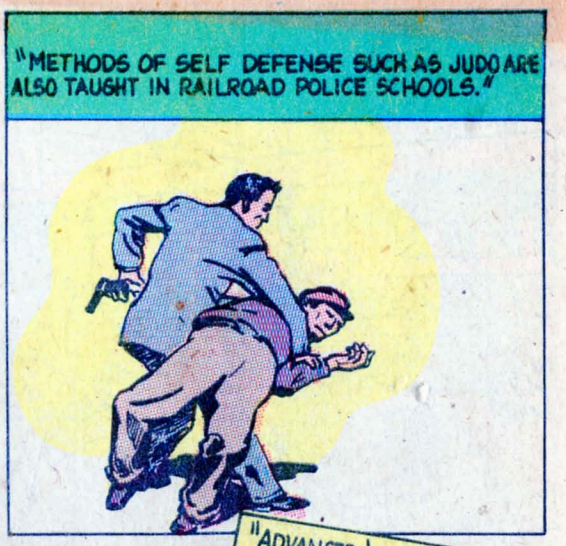
"SPECIAL AGENTS, WORKING GENERALLY IN PLAINCLOTHES, OFTEN PATROL PASSENGER TRAINS. IN MOST INSTANCES, THEY ARE ABLE TO SPOT BAGGAGE THIEVES, CONFIDENCE MEN, OR PICKPOCKETS LONG BEFORE THEY GO TO WORK ON A VICTIM.

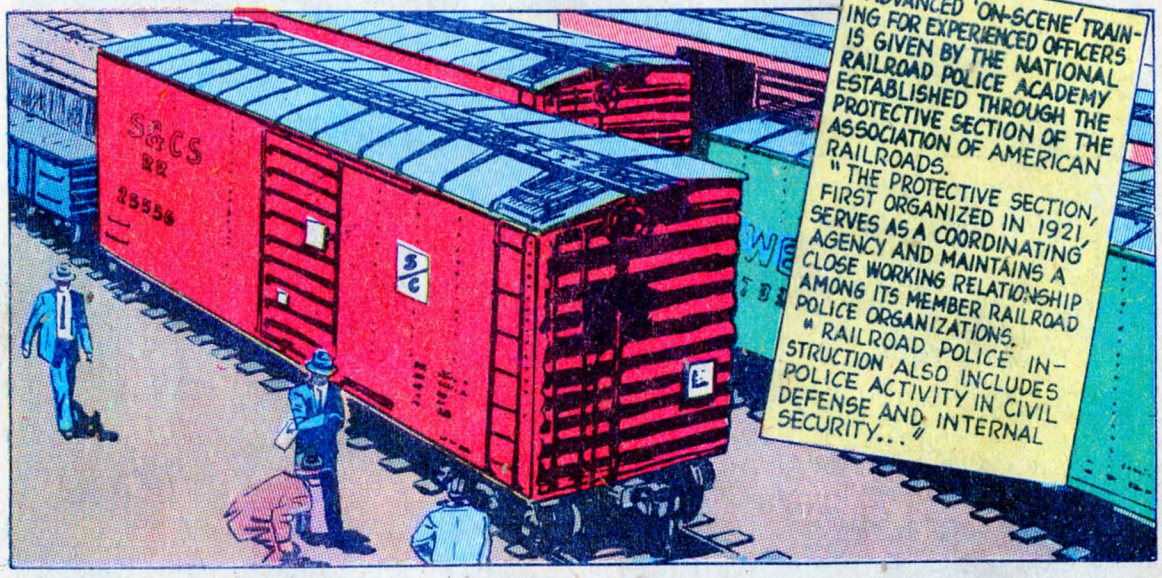
"LOSS EXPERIENCED ON A TRAIN BY A PULLMAN OR COACH PASSENGER IS TELEGRAPHED AHEAD TO A SPECIAL AGENT WHO WAITS AT THE NEXT STOP."

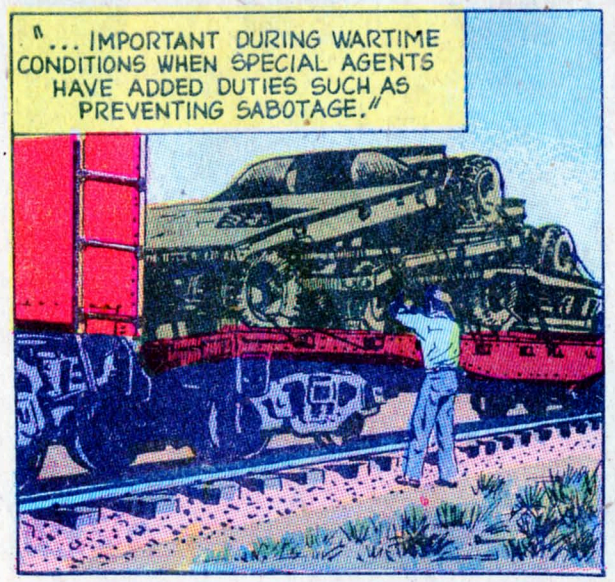
WHEN DID THE PASSENGER FIRST NOTICE THAT HER BILLFOLD WAS MISSING?

WHEN SHE OPENED HER HANDBAG TO PAY FOR HER LUNCH IN THE DINER.

"THE POLICE OFFICER RECEIVES A SUMMARY OF THE EVENTS LEADING TO THE LOSS. HE VERIFIES THESE DETAILS AND OBTAINS ALL OTHER NECESSARY INFORMATION FROM THE PASSENGER AND THE MEMBERS OF THE TRAIN CREW."




THE RAILROAD POLICE REPRESENT SOME 400 INDIVIDUAL RAILROADS, EACH WITH ITS OWN POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO BE CONSIDERED AT ALL TIMES. THEY SAFEGUARD THE MORE THAN 233,000 MILES OF ROAD AND 389,000 MILES OF TRACK OPERATED BY THE RAILROADS—AND THE MORE THAN 400,000,000 PASSENGERS AS WELL AS THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS' WORTH OF FREIGHT TRANSPORTED BY THE RAILROADS ANNUALLY.

THE RAILROAD POLICE TAKE PARDONABLE PRIDE IN THE PROFICIENCY OF THEIR ORGANIZATION AND IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WHICH EXISTS AMONG ITS MEMBERS. AND THE EXCEPTIONAL RECORD THEY HAVE MAINTAINED OVER THE YEARS—THE SAVING OF LIVES AND PROPERTY AND THE PREVENTION OF CRIMES — IS EXCELLED BY NO OTHER PROTECTIVE AGENCY.

8-58—2,000M—G.B.P.

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